Privilege Motion.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, I have given notice of a privilege motion and I shall read it . . ."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is no question of moving the motion to-day and taking it up to-morrow. The hon. Member has just given me notice of the motion. The motion may be taken up to-morrow when I shall be able to say something in the matter."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The motion will be taken up to-morrow."

III.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE*. THE SYSTEM OF VOTING TO BE ADOPTED IN THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, I move the following motion under rule 40, namely :—

> ' *to call the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the system of voting to be adopted in the ensuing municipal elections.*'

" I hope, Sir, the hon. Members of this House as well as the Hon. Minister for Local Administration will be aware of the fact that the voters in the ensuing municipal elections are very anxious to see that the new system of voting proposed to be adopted in the municipal elections should not be adopted. Sir, it is the duty of the Government to see that the citizens are given facilities to utilize the right of voting given to them in the proper way. The Government must give all facilities for the people to exercise their franchise and elect such of those candidates as they wish to."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is making a speech."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, several municipalities have passed resolutions protesting against the new system of voting and have sent them to the Government. They want that the new system should be scrapped and that the system that was adopted at the time of the last general elections should be reintroduced. I hope, Sir, the Government will immediately attend to this matter."

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The new method of voting by marking on ballot paper containing symbols was first tried in the elections to certain select panchayats in 1953, and later on, in the elections to district boards held in 1954. Under this system, the symbols assigned to candidates contesting the elections from a ward or circle are printed on the ballot paper itself. The elector is given only one ballot paper, whatever may be the number of seats which have to be filled. He should, on receiving the ballot paper, proceed into the polling

compartment and there make a mark in the compartment enclosing the symbol of the candidate of his choice, printed on the ballot paper. The mark may be made anywhere in the space within the compartment enclosing the symbol, whether on the symbol itself or partly on the symbol and partly outside the symbol or wholly outside the symbol. The elector should then fold the ballot paper and put it into a ballot box kept in front of the polling officer.

"2. A lot of criticism was levelled against the new system of voting adopted in the recent elections to district boards. The main objection was that the electors did not know to mark correctly on the ballot paper with the result that large percentage of votes became invalid. However, the new system has certain distinctive advantages like preventing the elector from taking away the ballot paper, economy in expenditure, etc. The Inspector of Local Boards who was asked to make suggestions for removing the difficulties noticed in the working of the new system, has made certain suggestions for overcoming some marked defects and to make the new system of voting simpler and at the same time to enable a large number of voters to exercise their franchise. The following proposals of the Inspector have been accepted and necessary instructions have been issued in the matter :—

(1) Removing the poster at present kept inside the polling compartment for the information of electors, and placing it at the entrance to the compartment, as it was observed that many electors put the mark on the poster instead of on the ballot paper.

(2) Printing of symbols on the ballot paper in mere outlines instead of in thick shade.

(3) Removing the horizontal lines on the edges of the ballot paper and those dividing the serial number of the candidate and the symbol assigned to him.

(4) Provision of colour pencils in the polling compartment, so that the mark put in by the voters will be more clearly visible.

"3. As there will be a large number of literates in municipal areas, the system is bound to work successfully in municipalities.

"4. Necessary amendments to the rules relating to the conduct of election of municipal councillors, enabling the Government to adopt the new method of voting by marking on symbols printed on ballot paper in the elections to municipalities, have been published for general information in the Rules Supplement to Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd June 1955. Six weeks time allowed for the receipt of objections or suggestions having now expired, the draft amendments will be confirmed shortly."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் படித்த அறிக்கை ரொம்ப நீளமாக இருந்தது. எங்களுக்கு புரிந்து கொள்ள முடியவில்லை.

ஆகையால் தயவு செய்து 'ஸைக்லோஸ்டைல்' செய்து கொடுத்தால் அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கு சௌகர்யமாக இருக்கும் என்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.''

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I think there is no provision in our rules for doing so."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" It is left to you, Sir, to have it circulated."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" The office can type the statement and circulate it to Members."

* SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" It has been the convention on the promise made by Ministers that whenever they have to give a long reply they will either be printed or cyclostyled and copies given to all the Members and we have been following that practice, Sir."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I will see that the statement is circulated to all the Members."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL, 1955—*cont.*

Clause 2.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" We will now continue our discussion on clause 2 of the Bill. The Government have given notice of an amendment and let the Hon. Minister in charge of the Bill move it."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Before the Hon. Minister moves his amendment, I may be permitted to resume my speech which I did not conclude yesterday."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" All right, let the hon. Member first finish his speech and then let the Hon. Minister move the Government amendment."

* SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I started my speech in Malayalam yesterday, but I will finish it to-day in English. I hope that I will not have to speak on the amendment that the Government have kindly come forward to move." 9-40 a.m.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may be brief."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Yes, Sir, I will be very brief. Sir, we were under the impression at the beginning of the discussion that the Government will not accept our suggestion to continue the *status quo*. But in the meanwhile some changes